Bouthern confederacy is a public enemy, and should at least be watched with suspicion, if not punished as a creation. The credit of a government with its own people is as vital to its liberty as the strength of its armies. To stop the one is as fatal to the public welfare as to defeat the other. No man who deliberately does an act among us, the effect of which is to impair public confidence in the issues of the government, and thereby in its ability to meet fully, at the end of the war, all its financial engagements, can be viewed in any other light than as disaffected to its cause, or as so utterly dead to the instincts of patriotism as to be willing to increase its embarrassments in order to make money out of them. It should be the pleasure, as it is the duty, of every loyal son of the South to strengthen the financial arm of the government.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Trouble Growing Out of the Execution of the Fugitive Slave Law.

Conflict Between the Military and Civil Authorities.

Treasury Circular Respecting Trade with the Reopened Southern Ports.

ARRESTS OF SOLDIERS AND CIVIL OFFICERS.

Action of the Senate on the National Tax Bill.

Debate on the Confiscation Question in the House, &c.,

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1862.

last night grew out of the fact, as is generally represented, that a squad of soldiers went to the jail for th purpose of effecting the release of a colored woman, alloged to be under military protection, and who had been sent thither by virtue of the decision of the Commissioners under the Fugitive Slave law. The jailer, Milburn, and Deputy Marshal Phillips from Marshal Lamon. The consequence was the military made them prisoners, together with the counsel for the laimant of the woman, and lodged them in the Capitol guardhouse, and removed the woman to another part of e city. At a subsequent period the Marshal hims companied by the Superintendent of Police, Mr. prisoners. Things thus rested until an early hour this exception of Deputy Marshal Phillips and Jailer Milburn. Later in the day all who were arrested by either side

Marshal Lamon and Military Governor Wadsworth had them, the former claiming the right to exercise all his civil functions in the absence of a declaration of martial law. The questions at issue will have to be settled by

General Wadsworth intends to insist on an exa tion into every case where an alleged fugitive has a military pass or protection, or where there is reason to elieve the accused is free under the law of August last, confiscating slaves who have been employed for insur-

Additional Particulars of the Affair. WASHISTON, May 23, 1862.

The conflict between the military and civil jurisdictions in the District of Columbia cuiminated last night. The event will compel a decision in the premises, which rill settle the vexed question as to which authority pre-

the jail, boaring an order from General Wadsworth, Mili-tary Governor, for the delivery of a negro woman ardeclined to accede to the demand until he had consulted the Marshai, who was absent serving processes. Soon afterward a lieutenant, accompanied by a party of the Provost Guard, came to the jail and rethe demand to the Deputy United States Marshal, Mr. Phillips, who also refused, and was instantly placed in arrest., The demand was then made pon the jailor, who was likewise arrested for refusing to obey the order. Mr. Joseph Bradley, Sen., the counsel of also arrested

taken possession of. The negro was taken away, and a military guard placed ever the prison, with orders to Phillips, and the principal jatior, were sent to the Central

When Marshal Lamon, accompanied by J. M. Carlisle. one of his attorneys, arrived at the prison, he found it in military possession. He at once called upon Colonel Webb, Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, who varned his department to be ready for immediate service. A police force was assembled at the City Hall, within call from the jail. The Marshal, accompanied by Sergeant Cronin, of the nolice, proceeded to the jail, and after consultation with counsel, the Marshal quietly disarmed and arrested, one by one, the sergeant of the uard and the sentries, placed them in custody, and re-umed possession of the prison, and released Mr. Bradley,

Leaving the jail in custody of Sergeant Cronin and the ded of the captain of the guard—First, permission to confer with his deputy and jailor; second, their immediate release; third, that the captain and the men under his command should obey his summons, as a posse comitatus, to rescue the deputy marshal and jailor rom the custody in which they then were. These demands were refused.

farshal's forces in the custody of the Military Governor, and a part of the Military Governor's forces in the cus-tody of the Marshal. The district is not under martial law, and it is expected that the Military Governor will of the offence in forcibly rescuing a prisoner out of th

There was an exchange of prisoners to-day between the United States Marshal of the district and the military the civil and military authorities, a sergeant and a pri-

It is stated that several suits for false imprisons and a criminal prosecution for forcibly rescuing a pri-Gen. Wadsworth.

The issue made up as to the conflicting jurisdictions rill probably be settled as soon as the President and Secretary of War return from their trip to Fortress

DESPATCHES RECEIVED AT THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1862.

The latest advices received at the War Department are Our army has been within four miles of Corinth for

several days, skirmishing. The enemy do not seem in-clined to make an attack.

WARRINGTON, May 23-10 P. M. The rebels made a dash at General Banks' line near Front Royal this afternoon, and an attempt to burn the ranroad bridge recently rebuilt by the Union forces over the Shenandoah. The particulars are not yet ascer-

Nothing of public interest had been received from th other military departments up to ten o'clock this even-

There is nothing from Pittsburg Landing.

GENERAL NEWS.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1862. THE RESEL PORCES IN VIRGINIA AND GEN, M'CLEL- centrated against him at Richmond, but for the considerable rebel force said to be in his rear, in the direct of Fredericksburg. As they have railroad facilities, it is suggested that they could easily move a large body of men, on the eve of a battle, and fall upon our army in the rear. By cutting down bridges, &c., behind them, they could retard for a time any advance of General McDowell to thwart their Sobject. These apprehen-sions are, however, entirely unnecessary. General McClelian has a compact and thoroughly disci-plined army of brave men and good officers. It has been created by his own exertions. He can handle it as easily as a good colonel can manœuvre a regiment, and he will push it on victoriously through twice or perhaps, desperate rebel troops. Whatever apprehen sions may be entertained here or elsewhere as to the result, neither General McClellan, nor his army, ner the dministration, participate in them.

PROPOSITIONS FOR REOPENING SOUTHERN PORTS— THE ACTING COLLECTOR OF NEW ORLEANS. The Secretary of the Treasury has appointed George S. Dennison, from the neighborhood of New Orleans, as Special Agent and Acting Collector, to open the port at the earliest practicable period, in order to carry out the President's proclamation. Collectors will be appointed for Beaufort, N. C., and Port Royal, S. C., as soon as proper persons can be selected, the object of the Secretary of the Treasury being to procure the services of those resident in the South, and who, in addition to efficiency, will be acceptable to all the parties concerned.

THE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES. It has been ascertained from an authentic so the expenditures of the government from April, 1861, to the present time have not averaged \$1,000,000 per day. This may be considered a refutation of the exaggerate

reports upon the subject.

The statement of Mr. Voorhies, of Indiana, in reference to the expenditures of the government, alluded to in a lespatch last night, was based upon a similar declaration made several weeks ago by Mr. Stevens, Chairman of the Demonstree of Ways and Means, and subsequenty reite rated by another member of that committee. The astounding statement should, therefore, be credited to Mr. Stevens, and not to Mr. Voorbees.

TRADE WITH THE SOUTHERN PORTS. The following circular has been issued by the Secretary

TRADE WITH THE SOUTHERN PORTS.

The following circular has been issued by the Secretary of the Treasury:

The following circular has been issued by the Secretary of the Pressury:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 22, 1862.

Sir.—You will refuse a clearance to any vessel to ray of the ports under recent insurrectionary control, opened to general trade under the preclamation of the President of the 12th inst., having on board any articles coultraband of war, as indicated below, and you will also refuse a clearance to any vessels to any foreign ports laden with such articles, it you have satisfactory reason to believe that such goods, wares or merchandise are intended for ports or places in possession or under the control of insurgents against the United States, viz.—Cansons, mortars, firearms, pistols, bombs, grenades, firelocks, finds, matches, powder, saltpetre, basis, bullets, pikes, swords, sulphur, helmets or boarding caps, sword belts, saddles and bridles—always excepting the quantity of the said articles which may be necessary for the defence of the ship and of those who comprese the crew; cartridge bag material, percussion and other caps, clothing adapted for uniforms, rosin, saticloth of all kinds, bemp and cordage, mass, ship timber, tar and pitch, multary persons in the service of the enemy, despatches of the enemy.

You will also refuse a clearance to any vessel with a carso consisting in whole or in part of the following named articles, viz.—Coals, iron, lead, copper, tin, brass, telegraphic instruments, wire, porous caps, platina, suiphuric acid, zinc, and all other telegraphic materials, marine engines, screw propellers, paddle wheels, cylinders, cranks, shafts, boilers, tubs for beliers, fire bars and every article or any other component part of any engine or boiler or any article whatever which is, can or may become applicable for the manufacture of marine machinery or for the armor of vessels, and liquors of all kinds. I am, very respectfully, S. P. CHASE,
Socretary of the Treasury.

Heam Barney, Esq.,

INDIRECT ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.

Another bill to indirectly abolish slavery in Maryland nd Virginia, and fill this District with negroes, was introduced to-day by Senator Wilmet. It makes it the duty of United States officers to summon such witnesses, slaves included, as fugitives may declare on eath to be material to disprove allegations of claimants. It also requires the taking of the following oath:-

requires the taking of the following oath:—
I do solemnly swear for affirm, as the case may be] that I will support and defend the constitution and government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true and faithful allegiance to the same, any ordinance, restriction, or law of any State Convention, Legislature, or order, or organization, secret or otherwise, to the contrary notwithstanding; that I do this with a full determination, pledge and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatshever; and especially that I have not, by word or deed, or in any manner whatever, given countenance, aid, comfort or encouragement, to the present rebellion, or to those who have been or are now engaged in the conspiracy against the government; and that I have always been loyal and true to the government of the United States. So help me God.

The bill provides a penalty of fine and imprisonment for perjury in taking the above oath.

Mr. Sumner wants to obtain a Congressional expression, that previous acts of Congress on the subject of surrendering fugitive slaves do not mention the District of Columbia. When his object is accomplished, and all the slaves in Maryland and Virginia run hither, what is to be done with them ?

BEORGANIZATION OF THE COURTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMNIA.
Senator Wilson introduced a bill to-day looking t
radical changes in offices here. It has regard to that bane nected with the Judiciary of the District which would give "fat takes" to such patriots who have no stomach for fighting the battles of the country. It is proposed to have a Court of Common Pleas, with one Judge; a Court of Equity, with one Judge; and a Criminal Court, with one Judge. The three Judges are to constitute a Court of Appeals. The system is vicious, because it gives to the Judge who has made a decision in the Court below a voice in the action of the superior tribunal. One ground for the establishment of a new judiciary is, to get Judges who will interpose every possible obstacle to the

THE RIGHT SESSIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-The impression that the holding of night sessions of the House of Representatives is an indication of an approximation to the conclusion of the session, is erroneous. The

night sessions now are solely to enable gentlemen to put in their speeches on the Confiscation bills, which, by agreement, are to be voted upon on Monday next. The ses sion to-night, as usual, occasioned a much larger array of empty seats than of smiling faces. When the House was called to order two members were present—Mr. Fliot, of Massachusetts, on the floor, and Mr. Aldrich, of esota, in the chair. The greater portion of those who subsequently dropped in obtained leave to print their remarks, which they had not as yet prepared, and of course not as yet deliverd. These who did speak spoke briefly and from manuscripts, evidently manifesting that they had their speeches in their pockets. The galleries were well filled with ladies. The speeches were, as usual, plentiful in Samboism. At no one time were there a dozen members present.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF WAR. The paroled prisoners of war, to the number of nearly nine hundred, who for the past week have been domiciled at the Soldiers' Rest, near the Copitol, are now all released. The last lot, nearly one hundred and fifty, will leave for New York by to-morrow morning's train.

THE PAROLED MEN OF THE SICELES BRIGADS. ral Sickles, previous to his resuming command of his troops, he made arrangements with the Secretary of War by which all of his paroied men received a furlough, inutation of rations at the rate of twenty cents a day from the date of capture to the date of release, together with two months' pay and transportation for each soldier. It is expected that they will be exchanged within thirty days, much to their gratification. Of the remaining soldiers not more than five demanded furloughs.

GREAT DEMAND FOR CHEAP CLOTHING. The New York Chatham street clothes dealers have been doing a brisk business for two days, furnishing cheap clothing at high prices to the discharged troops. They, after emerging from the clothler's and the barber's, present a striking appearance to what they were on arrival-tired, dirty, discouraged men. The task of mus-tering out these troops was entrusted to Major John Buford, Assistant Inspector General United States Army, who, with his corps of assistants, accomplished it this

A GAMBLING HOURE BROKEN UP. The prevest guard, at a late hour last night, made descent upon Hall's extensive gambling house, capturing the agent or dealer and from fifteen to twenty players, t gether with all the sporting apparatus. This is not the only establishment of the kind which has lately fallen under condemnation and suppression.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

Apprehensions are expressed for General McClellan's Mr. Schner, (rep.) of Mass., called up the resolution instruction file Judiciary Committee to inquire what

further legislation is necessary to protect the property tional seizure. He said that all had been shocked lately by the attempts of the slave hunters to carry off hu

by the attempts of the slave hunters to carry of human beings into slavery from the capital. The provisions for the return of fugitives in the constitution and in the law of 1850 say nothing about the District of Columbia at all. Resolution adopted.

Mr. Wilson, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a bill for the reorganization of the courts of the District of Columbia. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. FOSTER, (rep.) of Colum, introduced a bill for a general bankrupt law. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Wilson, of Miss., from the Military Committee, re-certed a bill amendatory of the act increasing the nilitary establishment. military establishment.

The bill pravides that staff officers shall be sent to the Senate for confirmation. It was passed.

The Tax bill was then taken up.

The license for coal oil distillers was amended so as t

be fifty dollars instead of twenty.

An amendment striking out the license of ten dollars an horses, and cattle dealers and brokers and ma

tures, was rejected. confectionery to one cent per pound was agreed to.
In the course of the debale Mr. Frsumers stated that
it was shown before the committee that ever 250,000,000
pounds of confectionery per annum was made in the
lighted States.

to was snown before the committee that ever 250,000,000 pounds of confectionery per annum was made in the United States.

The amendment raising the tax on manufactured tobacco from ten to twenty cents per pound, on souff reducing from eighty to twenty cents per pound; and on segars raising about twenty per cent, was adopted.

The amendment striking out the tax on brooms, wooden-ware, hats, ears, bonnets, heep striks, ready made clothing, native while and furs, was adopted.

The tax on wood screws was made one and a half cent pound. The amendment striking out the tax of one cent per pound was discussed at some length, and laid aside.

Adjourned, having reached the gaventy-fith section of

Adjourned, having reached the seventy-fifth section the bill. House of Representatives.

Washington, May 23, 1862.
A resolution was debated and adopted allowing J. Ster ling Morton per diem, but not mileage, for the time he was engaged in unsuccessfully contesting the seat of Mr. Daily , as delegate from Nebraska. Before the passage of the resolution

Mr. Frank, (rep.) of N. Y., objected to it, stating that the contestant Morton received during the July session of Congress \$2,700; now he contests again, and the recolution effered would give him \$2,300 additional, making in all over \$5,000. In the Thirty-sixth Congress, in the Sickles and Williamson case, \$4,700 were paid, and in other contested cases large amounts. During this Congress a contestant from Oregon (Mr. Thayer) received over \$7,000, although failing to retain his seat; in the Philadelphia cases, Mr. Kline \$3,112, and Mr. Butle? öv57, \$2,700, both failing to obtain the beat. It was time to stop paying such farge Sums to contestants, and he should; at a future period, introduce a resolution restricting the amount to be paid contestants who fail to obtain their seats to the amount of \$1,600. DEBATE ON THE CONFESCATION BILL.

The House resumed the consideration of the Confisci

Mr. SEEFFIELD, (opp.) of R. I., argued that the first bill

The House resumed the consideration of the Confiscation bills.

Mr. Surffield, (opp.) of R. I., argued that the first bill was, in effect, a bill of attainder, and it took property without due process of law. The second bill was for the emancipation of the slaves. This was in violation of the solemn piedges made in July last not to interfere with the local institutions of the States. This breach of faith could not be justified on the ground of necessity; for the strongest necessities of the war were upon the country whan we made that piedge. The rebellion was to be put down by the army, not by legislation.

Mr. Excounce, (rep.) of N. Y., advocated an amendment. He proposed to ofter to the Liberation Bill an additional section, setting forth that eleven States have combined, calling themselves the "Confeserate States," and have made war on and rebelled against the government of the United States, and proposing, in view of this fact, that it shall be the duty of every officer of a naval or military district in any portion of those States to proclaim or otherwise invite all loyal men to come within the lines and be enrolled in the service of the Unified States. He meant by this any service, civil or military. As a reward for such service he proposed to give their and their descendants freedom forever. He included not only the slaves of rebels, but those of loyal persons, for which he proposed to give compensation or to their widows and orphans. He claimed the right to pass such a law under the war power in the constitution; and in the course of his argument said, it would be an act of poetic justice to appoint klobert small, the colored man who recently delivered a rebel steamer to Dupont's fleet, "Governor of South Carolina," and if Abraham Lingoin was half as much of a poet as he is a prophet he would send him thither in that capacity. There was just as much right to do this as to send Edward Stanly to North Carolina, or Abdrew Johnson to Tennessee as Governor of that State. He maintained that everything that st

Mr. Wickings. (Mr. Sedgwick) I call him to order.
The SPRAKE said the gentleman was not indulging in personalities.
Mr. Wickings.—The statement that "there is not a loyal slaveholder in this country," is faise.
The SPRAKEN.—Take your seat, sir.
Mr. Wickings.—I win, sir. (Laughter.)
Mr. Sprayer, remarked.—You will always know where the blow will hit if you watch the progress of the sn.t., what he meant was this:—The man who is not anxious and willing to sacrifice the institution of slavery to save the country is not loyal. This explanation he supposed would relieve his sensitive friend from Kentucky. In conclusion, he said he would not leave one slave in the wake of our advancing armies.

Mr. Maynam, (Union) of Tenn., did not believe the constitution was a shield to protect rebe's and traitors. He would use it as a spear to strike them down whenever they had an opportunity. He doubted the power of Congress to pass the Confiscation bills now pending, and even if they possessed this power it would be unwise and improper to exwose it. In the first place; it would do no good. It would neither strengthen us nor weaken our enemies. An act was passed last July confiscating the slaves of robels, and he had no doubt it was extensively circulated smong the rebels, serving to stimulate and exasperate them, and doing them no more harm than the attempt to kill a mad clephant by shooting him in the ear. When the gentieman (Mr. Sedgwick) said there were no loyal slaveholders," he did not speak with knowledge. It the gentieman had seen, as he (Mr. Maynard) had, old men, who believed it was right to hold wahs description of property, twen from their homes, thrown into prison and kept there under circumstances of the greatest personal outrage, and then sent further South, there to linger and die, because they would not take the cath of allegiance to the Confederate States; if the gentleman (Mr. Sedgwick) had seen these things, he (Mr. Maynard) was suit the gentleman would recall his appressional superior of the question. It was s

Douglar.

Mr. Maynam replied—"They did not hate Lincoln less, but Douglas mere."

Mr. Pinkars—They wanted to revolutionize.

Several Volce—That's it.

Mr. Maynam then directed attention to a paragraph from the Louisville Journal, showing that stringent measures should be adopted for the punishment of the rebels, and inviting the attention of the representative from that district to the subject.

Mr. Mattory (Union) of Ky., said the paragraph did not recommend confiscation, but evidently meant trying the rebels as traitors. He was in favor of this, and, if found guilty, would hang thom.

Mr. Maynam, in conclusion, offered a substitute propens to punish by fine and imprisonment all persons found guilty of giving aid and comfort to the enemy, &c.

Mr. Blass, (rep.) of Mo., argued that international law was not applicable to the existing war. While he was prepared to vote for some measure to indict the severest punishment upon those who are attempting to break up the government, betrated the House would stop at the point which justice and humanity requires. The leading conspirators in this detectable rebellion should be so treated as to deter others for all time from the repetition of the crime. Some men had been forced, or driven, or over persuaded into the rebellion; therefore it was minter good sense or good policy to make war on the whole people in the insurrectionary States. He opposed the bill providing for emancipation of the slaves, arguing that it would accomplish nothing beneficial. He was opposed to arming segroes, and advocated coloniring them.

Mesers. Spatiation, Sameaux, Holkar and Bessers asked and obtained permission to print their speeches. Mr. Looms, (rep.) of Coms. advocated confiscation, and that every principle which will apply to a foreign cuerny will apply with greater force to a domestic enemy. It was our duty and right to free the slaves of every read.

rebol.

Mr. Armons, (rep.) of Ill., maintained that kindness to rebels is regarded by them as an indication of weakness and cowardice. They must feel our power, and respect the majesty of justice in the pusishment of their crime. It is a war of civilization against barbarism, and slavery

THE BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG.

Interesting and Authentic Account of the Whole Affair.

The Commencement and Progress of the Action.

One of the Fiercest Fights of the Rebellion.

BRAVERY OF THE CONTENDING FORCES.

Treachery of Some of the Ruffian Rebels.

HEROIC CONDUCT OF THE UNION TROOPS.

REPEATED CHARGES ON THE ENEMY

Wounded Soldiers.

The "Star Spangled Banner" and the

Distinguished Courage of Commanding Officers,

GEN. HANCOCK'S CHARGE.

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED,

BIVOUAC BEYOND THE BATTLE FIELD, May 10, 1862. The battle of Williamsburg, which took place on Mor day last, was one of the most hotly contested engage ments of the war. At the close of the conflict in the evening no one knew the extent of the action, the troops who had participated in it or the loss we had sustained in killed and wounded. But now that the noise of the attle has ceased, and the smoke has disappeared; now that the rebels have been routed, the killed been buried and the wounded nursed, we understand the true charac ter and magnitude of the encounter in which the op-posing forces were engaged. Since the days of the great Vapoleon, to say the least, I apprehend that the ma tial annals of the world contain the record of ne harder fighting nor of a more sanguinary struggle. So many fragmentary reports of the bat-tic have appeared in print, all of them necessarily incom-plete, and most of them grossly incorrect, that immediate justice to all the gallant soldiers who took part in the engagement, not less than the truth of history, has mad it incumbent on me to prepare the following connected parrative of the whole affair. Most of the fighting from morning until evening took place in and about the foresthrough which three roads that converge near Williams burg run : so that it was impossible for any one individual to see more than the merest inconsiderable portion of the battle. This narrative, however, after a personal examiauthentic sources of information, and may be relied upon as entirely correct.

FIRST PURSUIT OF THE ENEMY. After the evacuation of Yorktown by the enemy on Sunday morning, a full account of which I sent you, General Stoneman, with several regiments of regular cavairy, followed by light field batteries, including horse artillery, started in pursuit of the retreating enemy.

About noon Gen. Hooker's division left the camp in front of Yorktown, followed by General Kearney's division, both belonging to General Heintzelman's corps, and marched towards Williamsburg, to support General Stoneman, and assist him in cutting off the enemy's re treat. Our cavility was close upon the rear guard of the enemy, and at different points along the road there was oc casional skirmishing between them. Having prococied five or six miles, prudence dictated a halt, to

POSITION OF THE TROOPS General Smith's division, which had led the advance of Gen. Keyes' corps, on another road, on the left of our own line, met Gen. Hooker's at the inter of the roads, and near the point where the cavalry had halted. Gen. Smith's division continued on the Yorktown road, while Gen. Hooker's, at his own request, was permitted to file off a little to the left and take what is known as the Hampton road. Both these roads intersect again in the vicinity of Williamsburg. Nething of special interest transpired during the remainder of the day. Late in the afternoon General Sumper, who was the senier officer in command, contemplated an attack on the enemy but the lateness of the hour, an imperfect anowledge of the ground, and the exhaustion of the troops, some of whom had worked all the previous night in the trenches, together with the difficulty of communicating with his

command, combined to postpone the attack until morn-The troops bivounced that night in the following or-der:—General Hooker's division in front of the centre of the enemy's works, near Williamsburg; General Smith's division and General Stoneman, with the advance cavalry and artillery, on the right wing. The divisions of Generals Kearney and Couch had halted in the rear while other divisions occupied the positions assigned them by the General commanding. That was a fearful night, and that a strange, eventful bivousc. The roads had a difficult march; and there at night, without shel-ter from the rain, which was falling fast, without food or courishment, they all, officers and soldiers, reposed that Sabbath pight as best they could, on the wet ground and among the forest trees.

THE BATTLE FIELD.

On the morning of the 5th the march was resumed and by six o'clock General Grover's brigade, which led right of the enemy's works. It will be perceived from the accompanying map that the road on which they conches through felled timber in front of Fort Magrader. This work was about eight hundred yards distant, and was the enemy's strongest work. A ravine runs from this point through the woods and along towards the right. Fort Magruder is situated a little beyond the position of the Yorktown and Hampton roads, and is quite a formidable fortification, its cross measuring near-This principal work is supported on either side by other redoubts, each flanking the other and numbering a dozen in all. Approaching from the south they are concealed by the forest, from which, as yeu emerge, the ral growth brought the trees within a much pearer distance the timber was felled, both to obstruct our advance and to give free range to the rebel artillery. The open space in front of the fort was filled with rifle pits.

The other redoubts are located in excellent positions. These to the left-are erected on the eastern and southern verges of an elevated plateau, which is well pro tected by winding ravines. Those on the right sweep the open ground in that vicinity, one of them command: ing a dam about one hundred yards long, across a stream which flows into Queen's creek. The whole chain of earthworks commands the extensive undulating open ground running across the entire peniesula, frem Queen's creek on the right to Achershope creek on the left, where the one empties into the York and the other into the James river. WILLIAMSHURG.

Beyond, in the distance, is the sucient and beautiful lown of Williamsburg, where, among other objects of interest, is situated the well known College of William and Mary, which Virginians speak of with so much love and veneration. One principal road runs through the town. and it was over this read that the whole rebel army was

COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTION.

The enemy had evidently determined to make a ten porary stand at Williamsburg, in order to successfully cover the retreat of his retiring columns, and save the baggage of his army. On the other hand we were dened to press his rear, so as to render his flight both from the commander of the corps, General Hocker's division first engaged the enemy.

GENERAL GROVER OPENS THE BATTLE.

At half-past seven o'clock in the morning General ever's brigade opened the attack. A portion of the First Massachusetts regiment, under Lieutenant Colone Wells, who has taken price in drilling the regiment in the art of skirmishing, was deployed in front to the left of the Hampton road, the remainder of the regiment being held in reserve under Colonel Cowdin. Two companies of the Second New Hampshire, Colonel timber, with instructions to pick off the enemy's sharp-shooters and artillerists, while the other companies remained in the rear. Subsequently the Eleventh Massa. chusetts, Colonel Biaisdell, and Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania, Colonel Small, were placed in the same manner the right of the Second New Hampshire, which was de-Small was wounded in the leg. Captain Weber's battery of artillery was sent in advance of the fallen timber, and at seven or eight hundred yards from Fort Magruder THE FORT OPENS PIRE, FOLLOWED BY A REPOURT.

At this moment a terrific fire was opened from four guns in the fort and from two guns in one of the redoubts to the left; and before our battery had been placed in position several of the men, including two officers, had been stricken to the ground by the fire of the enemy. The drivers of the limbers could not stand the fire, and they refired to the rear. Major Wainwright, commanding the artillery in the division, immediately galloped to the rear, and called for volunteers from Capain Osborne's First New York battery, while, in the meantime, Captain Weber succeeded in rallying quite a number of his own men. With commendable alacrity the volunteers from the other battery came forward Thus the four guns of battery H were manned and speedily in action, replying to the enemy's artiflery. Half an hour afterwards Captain Bramhall's Sixth New York battery came up, and five of his guns were placed teries now poured a most destructive fire into the ene fusilade; and before nine o'clock in the merning the troops in front were dispersed, and the guns in the fort were silenced until late in the afternoon. These batteries were well supported by the Fifth New Jersey regiment,

Colonel Starr.
DIRFORMION OF GENERAL EMONT'S COMMAND

General Heintzelman, who was on the field in person, little in the rear, had sent General Emory forward with a small command, which was afterwards increased to four regiments of infantry—the Third Michigan, Col. Champlin; Third Maine, Col. Staples; Fourth Maine, Col. Walker, and the Sixty-third Permsylvania, Col. Hayes-with Benson's Second artillery, and two batteries from General Kearney's division, all accompanied by Colone Averili's Third Pennsylvania cavalry. When General Emory reached the front with the cavalry, he learned from General Hooker, who had immediate command admit of an opportunity to bring his arm of the service into action at that time. General Emory, however, was sent with some of the force around along the ros the left and rear, to observe movements of the enemy which the woods concealed. In this regard Lieutenant McAlister, of the Engineer Corps, rendered valuable services, which were appreciated on the field. General Emory's command had a little skirmishing around among the fallen timber redoubts. A squadron of the cavalry took possession of the work, which was partly deserted, and captured sesmall force under his commrnd prevented General Emory making an effective domonstration in rear of the enemy. It was at this point that a heavy column, had it been, or could it have been, pushed vigorously round to the left, might have reached the rear of Williamsburg and surrounded large numbers of the enomy. At the n int at which the rebel reinforcements were coming a a double quick, having been recalled from the retreat to aid the already wavering fortunes of the enemy. It is a problem in war, which only the seof our forces to our left would have accomplished its object, or whether it would have been overpowered by the superior numbers of the enemy. It would appear also that, after the gups at Fort Magruder had been silenced in the morning, had troops enough been on the field, a heavy column of infantry might have been poshed forward, pierced the enemy's lines, and, getting in his rear, captured quite a number of his forces.

PROGRESS OF THE ENGAGEMENT. Quite carly in the morning it was perceived that the memy was endeavoring to turn our flank to the left; for heavy firing was heard in that locality. The remaining companies of the First Massachusetts regiment were then deployed, and the Eleventh Massachusetts and Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania regiments, under General stinate efforts of the enemy to drive us back at Grover, were ordered through the woods to out the tactics of the enemy. The Twenty-sixth Pennsylvanis, whose colonel was wounded, did not receive the order, and remained on the right, with little less.

ANOTHER ABUSE OF THE FLAG OF TRUCE.

While the Eleventh Massachusetts were engaged not more than fifty yards from the enemy, a rebel officer displayed a white flag and shouted, "Don't fire on your friends!" Colonel Blaisdell immediately ordered his regiment to cease firing, and when private Doherty adobeyed, and we lost a number of men in consequence. Doherty was the first victim of this treachery; but, ere he fell, he had discharged his rifle at the officer, who received retributive justice in the form of a bullet through setts regiment, which fought bravely, bad become ex pended, the regiment was relieved by the Seventy-second New York, Lieutenant Colonel Moses, which was in turn replaced by the Seventieth New York, Colonel Dwight, THE THIRD BLANSION RECOVERY

In obedience to an order, Lieutenant Colonel Moses shed his regiment in front for the purpose of silencing a battery which was annoying us on the left. It was only when confronted with a most murderous fire, and bearing in mind the liability of having his command cut pearing in linear state in the control of from support, unless General Frank Patterson, already engaged, should immediately succeed in dislodging the enemy in front, that he was prudently ordered to retire to his original position, where he was then relieved by
the
FIRST EXCELSION REGISERY,

or Seventieth regiment of New York Volun-teers, Colonel Dwight. The first rebel regimen which confronted this mistook it for one of its own side. and the commanding officer, dictated by his mistrust, de same time the rebel flag was displayed by the rebel celor bearer; then our standard was raised, and the Stars No sooner had the good old flag been expired than a volley was discharged at our men; but it passed over their heads. The fire was returned with good effect. THE FIGHT WAXES WARM.

This rebel regiment was soon supported by another and both were successfully engaged by ours. Colone Dwight received, a slight wound in the leg. and Lieutenant Colonel Farnum, being severely wounded, was car-ried to the rear. Still the regiment fought with deter-mined bravery against superior numbers, and as we were gaining the advantage, Colonel Bwight ordered his regiment to charge through the falien timber. The sol-diers, with tremendous cheers, advanced upon the rebels, who were put to flight, and thus the flag which the ant. The soldiers in the Seventieth regiment ma their position as long as any ammunision in their car-touch boxes remained unexpended; and then, as our sup-ply train, by reason of the muddy condition of the roads, had not yet come up, they still presented an obstiroam, man held their vantage ground with cartridges nate front, and held their vantage ground with cartridges taken from the boxes of their dead and wounded com-rades around them. Reinforcements still confronted us, and the favorite project of the enemy to outflank

Captain Willard, of the Seventy-second regiment, when calling attention to the increasing fire on the left, fell dead while he was speaking, a bullet having hit him in the head. HOW COBONEL DWIGHT WAS WOENDED

The enemy, thus reinforced, pressed vigorously to the frost, and while Colonel Dwight was still endeavering to resist this additional onslaught he received two dangerous wounds, and, with several of his men, was taken prisoper by the enemy. He was carried by his ea

omrades to Williamsburg, where, when the rebels had evacuated, he was found by General Jameson. Out of thirty-three commissioned officers in this regiment who went into the action, twenty-two were killed and wound-ed. Both the Seventieth and the Seventy-second reginents displayed the most valorous conduct on this

OPERATIONS OF GENERAL PATTERSON'S BRIGADE. The engagement had now assumed extensive proper-tions, the infantry and artillery keeping up a continuous and destructive fire. All of General Patterson's New Jersey brigade, except the Eighth regiment, had previously arrived on the ground. Two regiments—the Sixth, Lieut. Col. Van Lear, and the Seventh, Col. Car. -were conducted by Gen. Patterson through the forest to sasist in repelling another attempt of the enemy to turn our left flank. They occupied the heavy timbes which intercepted our view of the enemy's works, When they advanced they were also met by fresh reginated between the contending forces, and the tide of battle was seen to ebb and flow on either side, seeming uncertain as to the issue. As well as the forces of the enemy, our regiments which, while firing, were lying down, still suffered severely, until at an opportune mo-ment, Colonel Johnson came up with the Eighth New ment, Colonel Johnson came up with the which was rapidly running round to the left. Heavy firing soon broke out on the right of this command, and was also handsomely repulsed. Again the orders of rebell officers in the woods, to the front and rear, demonstrated fully made to turn our left were resumed; and this time, again foiled in his attempt.

From the first it seemed a subject of solicitude to have General Heintzelman's command join that of General right. This having been effected, General Hooker, about alf-past eleven o'clock, despatched to General Heintzelman's Assistant Adjutant General a note, in which he said, "I have had a hard contest all the morning, but do not despair of success. My men are all at work, but a great deal exhausted. It is reported to me that my comenemy. Batteries, cavalry and infantry can take park by the side of mine and whip the enemy." This was sens to a point on the Yorktown road, under the impression that General Heintzelman was still there, whereas that gal'ant and intrepid soldier was near the Hampson road, where the fighting was severest, cheering on the long expected and welcomed reinforcements.

HOW GENERAL SUMNER LEARNED THAT BEINFORCE

This note, therefore, was not received by General Heintzelman, but was returned to General Hocker open, and on the envelope endorsed "opened and read by the senior officer on that field," who was General Sumner. the effect of infusing renewed energy into our command-ers on the right; for about noon General Peck received orders to proceed to the front in support of General Hooker. GENERAL PECK'S BRIGADE ADVANCES.

He urged on his command, which went through the deep mud and drenching rain with commendable alscrity deep mud and dronching rain with commandate alsority.

He was met by General Keyes, commander of the Fourths

corps, who gave him some instructions, and accompanied on the field by General Couch, who
advised the disposition of his troops. Notwithstanding the fearful condition of the roads, two batteries—Captain Flood's and Captain McCarty's Pennsylvania artillery—came up to assist General Peck's brigade, and later in the day the troops were placed Hancock's brigade had been ordered still further to the the purpose of taking possession of a work which commanded a dam across a tributary to Queen's creek, and which had been descrited by the enemy early in the morning,

General Hancock, with the principal portions of the Fifth Wisconsin regiment, Colonel Cobb; the Sixth Maine, Colonel Burnham; the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, Colonel Irwin; the Seventh Maine, Colonel Mason, and the Thirty. thousand five hundred men—and supported by Lieu-tenant Cowan's and Capt, Wheeler's batteries of artiflery crossed the creek, and took possession of the work, and also of another about twelve hundred yards in advance, being, were deserted by the enemy.

THE CONTINUATION AND HEAT OF THE BATTLE. About this time our whole line from right to left was engaged with the enemy, who was still bringing up reinforcements—among which was Longstreet's division, con-sidered one of the finest divisions in the rebel service which were still being recalled by the commanding general of the rebel forces from beyond Williamsburg.

Among these were the commands of the rebel Generals Tryor, Gobison, Early and Pickett, which the prisoners we have taken say had the reputation of being among the best troops in the rebel army. At this time, as I have said, between two and three o'clock in the after-noon, our whole line was determinedly resisting the ob-

THE EXCRESION BRIGADE AGAIN. To the left the New York regiments comma ed by Colonel Nelson Taylor were cracking away with unremitting energy. The Seventy-AWAY Colonel Burtis, had just proceeded to strengthen that part of the line, which throughout the day the enemy turning of our left flank was the most important part of General Johnston's plan. The Seventieth and Seventysecond on the left of the road, and the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth on the right, advanced and poured a still pressing our position with wonderful tenacity.

At the same time the rebel artillery in Fort Magruder and the redoubt to its right (our left) reopened with shoe and shell, which made terrible havon among the forest trees, much more than among our men. The woods in every direction bear the marks not only of abot and shell from the artillery, but from the musketry fire on either side. Tree tops dropped off as though they had been heads severed from human bodies by the keeness sword. The blood of the noble fellows who fell in the contest covered the ground in some places, and mingled with the rain. The dead were lying in every direction, and the wounded formed a long, mournful procession, as they were conveyed to the rear. Many, however, were not found when night closed upon the scene, and they were necessarily left on the field till the morning dawned. The felled trees, forming an effective abatis, presented great obstacles to the advance of our men, and many were shot in climbing over them.

LIBUTENANT COLONEL BYMEDICT It was at this period that Lieutenant Colonel Ben of the Seventy-Inita Now York, who was always in the advance, must have been taken prisoner. These troops fought in the most gallant manner, and, when their am-muntion was almost expended, fell slowly back behind our batteries, which kept the rebels in check, until, having received fresh supplies of ammunition, which just then arrived, our regiments advanced again and kept up the contest until relieved by reinforcements

later in the afternoon.
THE JERSEY BRIGADS.
General Patterson's brigade, consisting of the Fifth,
Sixth, Seventh and Eighth regiments New Jersey Volunteers, continued to engage the enemy in the position it had taken in support of our left. Occasionally the line would waver before the fire freeh fresh troops which was pouring in upon it. Colonel Van-Lear and Majer Ryerson were killed, and Colonel Johnson and Colonel Carman wounded. The brigade, however, held the position, and disputed the right of the enemy galling fire, holding their ground against vastly superior numbers, fighting like tigers and with the coolness and tact of veterans, when the fresh troops on our side relieved them from the task, and drove the rebels relieved them from the task, and drove the rebels from the ground. Ne troops ever sustained a more destructive fire, or displayed better discipline or more determined gallantry. The number of the brigade was only two thousand, and its ossualties in killed and wounded are more than eight handred. Major Francis Price, commanding the Seventh regiment after the fall of Lieutenant Colonel Carmsa, was the only line officer who escaped injusy of the brigade, and was particularly distinguished for his intrepidity, and his regiment for the display of hereic obstinacy. This regiment was deprived of the presence of its Colonel, J. W. Revere an officer of large experience and great gallantry. All honor to the Jersey Blues, who so gallantly held their ground and fought like voterans. The old Revolutionary blood has again shown itself, and Jersey is entitled to a high place in the glorious Union. Her some nobly withsteed the great shock of this battle. nobly withsteed the great shock of this b